

Amendments to the Specification:

In the Specification, replace the third and fourth paragraph on page 11, with the following paragraphs:

The wild-type packaging signal of adenovirus serotype 5 is formed by at least seven functional units called A repeats, which are located between nt 230 and nt 380 of the genome. The A elements have the consensus sequence ATTTGN₈GCCG (Schmid *et al.*, 1977 *J. Virol.* 71:3375-3384, which is hereby incorporated by reference). The modified packaging signal of this invention preferably comprises less packaging elements than the wild-type (which has seven elements), preferably from about two to six elements, and more preferably from three to five elements. In a preferred embodiment, the modified packaging signal contains only four out of the seven original packaging elements (elements A I to A IV). The four elements are preferably in a modified form with two strong elements (A I and A II) present. The position of the elements relative to each other may be changed, but in preferred embodiments, it is maintained.

In order to reduce the contiguous sequence homology, the eight ambiguous nucleotides of the consensus sequence (ATTTGN₈GCCG; SEQ ID NO:1) within each A element are preferably replaced by sequences taken from a different A element. For example, the eight nucleotides within A I were replaced by those from A V; and the eight nucleotides within A II were replaced by those from A VI. In addition, a new element was created between A II and A III starting 21 bp after A II, by changing the existing nucleotides to the consensus sequence. Two more nucleotides were exchanged within A IV: ATTTTGTT (SEQ ID NO:2) was changed to ATTTTGTTGT (SEQ ID NO:3). One embodiment of a synthetic packaging signal is given in SEQ ID NO:4.

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Amendments to the Sequence Listing:

Replace the paper copy and electronic version of the Sequence Listing with the copies provided herein with this response.